

Appl. No. 09/267,176

Reply to: Office Action of August 25, 2005

Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR A UTILITY PROCESSING SYSTEM

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Michael C. Burke
Serial No. : 09/267,176
Filed : March 12, 1999
Art Unit : 3626
Examiner : Morgan, Robert W.
Title : METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR A UTILITY
PROCESSING SYSTEM

MS AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

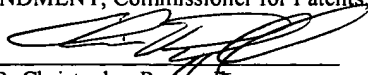
RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 25, 2005

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BY:


R. Christopher Rueppell

Date of Deposit: December 27, 2005

Honorable Commissioner:

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 25, 2005, for which the three-month shortened statutory period for reply was set to expire on November 25, 2005. A petition for a one-month extension of time is being filed herewith. While it is believed that no additional extension of time or any other additional fees are necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to grant any needed extension of time and to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1479.

Amendment of the **Claims** is provided in the **Listing of Claims** which begins on page 2 of this paper. **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.

Entry of the amendments and consideration of the Remarks that follow is respectfully requested.